

II. REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The applicants would like to thank the examiner for the suggestion of claim language that would place the present application in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the current Amendment, claims 1-10 and 14 will be pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 1 and 14 are amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed (e.g., page 14 and Figure 7). Therefore, the applicants believe that no new matter is added and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending application. This response is filed within the statutory deadline for response along with the fee required for a three-month extension of time.

Patentability Remarks

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 –

Claims 1-10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter not described in the specification. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments to the claims.

In particular, the terms “smaller than the straightness of said base material” and “different from the material of said glass base material” are removed. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

Claims 1-10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which the applicants regards as the invention. This rejection is moot in light of the amendments to the claims – as noted in the previous paragraph. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 –

Claims 1-10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yasuaki (JP 10-114536). This rejection is moot in light of the amendment to the claims.

As amended, claims 1-10 and 14 are directed to, *inter alia*, adjusting an axis of an apparatus for elongating a base material by adjusting a vertical inclination of a standard rod

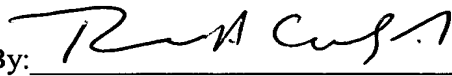
Inventor(s): YAMAMURA *et al.*
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Attorney Docket No.: 007874-0257743

having a predetermined straightness, wherein the standard rod is placed in a hanging mechanism and an elongating mechanism of the device to adjust an axis and removing the standard rod. This process is neither taught nor suggested by Yasuaki. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 14 is not unpatentable over Yasuaki and the applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue that the examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the examiner is strongly urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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